

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 18, 20, 25, 28-32 and 34-44 are pending in the application. New claim 44 is added, which is claim 23 in independent form. In the Office Action dated November 19, 2002, the Examiner allowed claims 34 and 37-43, and objected to claims 3-5, 22, 23 and 27-29 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner also noted that claims 3-5, 22, 23 and 27-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 22, 23 and 27 have been rewritten in independent form. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed by way of amendment and the remarks set forth above, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner wishes to discuss this application with the undersigned attorney, she may be reached at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment associated with this Response to Deposit Account No. 03-3975.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Date: April 16, 2003

By: 

Nicole S. Bradley
Registration No. 48,718
Attorney for Applicant(s)

725 South Figueroa, Suite 2800
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406
Telephone: (213) 488-7100
Facsimile: (213) 629-1033